



Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2008

Summary

Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (11):

Phillip Stevenson, Chair, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Meena Shahi, Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services
David Choate, Arizona State University (proxy for Charles Katz, Arizona State University)
Michelle Anderson, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
James Cunningham, University of Arizona (via conference call)
Wendy Wolfersteig, Arizona Prevention Resource Center, Arizona State University
Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute
Jody Sekerak, Indian Health Services (via conference call)
Richard Porter, Arizona Department of Health Services
Zeenat Mahal, Epidemiology Center, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona
Katherine Guffey, Arizona Department of Economic Security (via conference call)

Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (4):

Wesley Kortuem, Arizona Department of Health Services
Catherine Osborn, Arizona Department of Education
Gowri Shetty, Arizona Department of Health Services, Tobacco Education Prevention Program
Jeanne Brandner, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

Governor's Office Staff (3):

Jeanne Blackburn, (GOCYF, DSAP)
Morgan Hester, (GOCYF, DSAP)
Patrick Harris, (GOCYF, DSAP)

Public (2):

Michelle Neitch, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Mona Polacca, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona



Call to Order was made by Phillip Stevenson at 1:07 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Phillip Stevenson asked if anyone had any changes to the previous month's meeting minutes and asked if there was an approval of the meeting minutes.
- Wendy Wolfersteig recommended that the number of guests in attendance under the sub-heading "Call to Public" be amended to show that there had been members from the public present.
- A motion to accept the minutes with the proposed amendment was made. Phillip Stevenson seconded the motion. When prompted, all members in attendance offered their acceptance of the motion with no dissenters. Meeting minutes were accepted.

Announcements

- Meena Shahi notified the group of the upcoming 1st Annual Youth "*Dare To Be Different*" conference, sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services' Statewide Youth Advisory Council.
- Dennis Embry notified the group of the upcoming "Strategies for Prevention Research" conference, to be held May 27 – 30, 2008. The conference, to be held in San Francisco, will focus on intervention and prevention strategies research.
- Michelle Anderson extended an invitation for Work Group members to join the Arizona Evaluators' Network (AZENET) and noted that there is an available secretary position.
- Michelle Neitch updated members on the status of the Arizona Youth Survey:
 - Approximately 105,000 surveys have been sent out to 360 schools thus far, with additional surveys still being sent out.



Inter-tribal Council of Arizona: Update on Tribal Data Capacity Building Project

- Zeenat Mahal and Mona Polacca from the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona presented an overview of the sub-grantee agreement they have with GOCYF to build substance abuse data capacity among tribal populations.
 - The sub-grantee agreement is a two-phased plan to address gaps in tribal data.
 - Phase One – Design and implement an instrument designed to assess data sources of the nineteen member tribes (of the twenty-two tribes recognized in Arizona).
 - Permission to collect data is currently under review by the tribes.
 - The group was interested in the presentation, and the questions it posed, and asked Zeenat and Mona a number of questions.
 - David Choate asked whether tribes were unwilling or unable to give statistical information.
 - Mona responded that both factored into the equation, but that the main issue is that tribes want to maintain privacy as some of them are composed of a very small number of people.
 - Jeanne Blackburn asked how many tribes have not yet given their consent for the data capacity project.
 - David Choate recommended allowing an extended waiting period between the time the data is collected and its utilization and release in order to maintain some confidentiality for tribes with small populations.
 - Dennis Embry recommended compiling all small tribal groups worried about privacy to be compiled into one large group to maintain members' confidentiality.

Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity: Survey of Executive Branch State Agencies that Provide Substance Abuse Treatment Services

- Phillip Stevenson read the parts of Executive Order 2008-01 that pertain to the reporting by all executive branch agencies to Governor Napolitano on April 15th on their capacity to provide substance abuse treatment services.
 - Phil noted that this Executive Order presented a great opportunity to provide relevant data to the Governor and should be embraced as a way in which the Work Group could highlight its usefulness to Arizona.
 - It was suggested that due to the short amount of time to collect the data, the survey instrument should be kept as simple and straightforward as possible.
 - Phillip Stevenson presented a draft capacity data collection form.
 - Members made comments and suggestions for changes and were asked to e-mail any additional comments to Jeanne Blackburn and Phillip Stevenson.
 - David Choate volunteered to create a scannable survey instrument from the hard copy in order to streamline data entry.
 - Dennis Embry volunteered to work on creating a Survey Monkey version of the instrument.

Review of the Quarterly Meth Report Card

- Jeanne Blackburn presented the group with a draft of the quarterly methamphetamine report card.



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- She will try to get approval for the report to be done on a yearly, rather than quarterly basis, as the data do not lend themselves to collection on a quarterly schedule.

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership Update

- Phillip Stevenson updated the group on the latest meeting of the ASAP and explained his upcoming presentation at their next meeting.
 - He invited members to share examples of data that have informed public policy and practice so that he can include these in his PowerPoint.
 - He informed the group that the presentation will include a discussion of data that are available and which data are not, including recommendations for a better data infrastructure system in Arizona.

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Update

- Dennis Embry informed the group that he will have the template for emerging trends completed by the next meeting.
- He also provided the group with a summary report of the subcommittee's work thus far.

Call to Public

- There were no comments from the public.

Adjourn at 3:38 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn and Patrick Harris (GOCYF, DSAP).